

REMARKS

With this amendment, Applicant adds claims 16 and 17. Claims 2-17 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,290,615 to Ogg (“Ogg”). For at least the following reasons, Applicant traverses the rejection.

Applicant notes that the Examiner previously rejected claims 6 and 7 under Ogg in the Office Action of February 10, 2005. In the Office Action of August 1, 2005, the Examiner allowed the subject matter of claims 6 and 7 based on Applicant’s modifications to claim 1 filed in the amendment of May 19, 2005. The Examiner has now withdrawn the allowance of claims 6 and 7 but has not provided an explanation as to why the arguments in the May 19 filing were not persuasive. Applicant respectfully requests an explanation, however, Applicant also submits that claims 6 and 7 are patentable for at least the following reasons.

Claim 6 recites a “golf ball comprising a plurality of linearly or curvilinearly extending ridge-like lands, which are separate from each other, on a spherical surface of the golf ball.”

The object of the present invention is that flight performance of the ball is improved by increasing the percent coverage on the spherical surface of the golf ball by the dimple areas. Although this object may be similar to that of Ogg, the present invention differs from Ogg with respect to the designs on the golf ball’s surface, which is explained as follows.

Ogg discloses a golf ball with tubular projections (col. 3, lines 26-29, Figures), and claim 1, lines 11-14 of Ogg describes that “---- each of the plurality of lattice members [are] connected to at least one other lattice member to form a predetermined pattern of polygons [mainly hexagons] about the plurality of smooth portions on the surface of the innersphere, ---.” Accordingly, Ogg discloses a ball surface where the plurality of lattice members are connected.

In direct contrast, claim 6 recites that the claimed plurality of linearly or curvilinearly extending ridge-like lands are separate from each other on the spherical surface. In particular, as described in the present specification, page 5, lines 33-37, the lands 3 of different shapes are properly arranged over the spherical surface rather than arranging the cavities 4, and as a result of such arrangement, the cavities 4 are concomitantly formed. Thus, there are no limitations with respect to the shape, size and numbers of cavities in the present invention. This configuration allows for a high degree of freedom in arranging the lands.

Also, in the present invention, there are no vertices (46), which are the congruence of three projections, as illustrated in the figures of Ogg. Accordingly, the means or route for achieving better flight performance between the present invention and the invention in Ogg are patentably different. Therefore, the features of claim 6 are not anticipated by Ogg because the claimed lands that are separate from each other on the golf ball’s surface are not disclosed or suggested by Ogg.

Because claim 7 recites a feature similar to that given above with respect to claim 6, Applicant submits that claim 7 is patentable for at least reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 6.

II. New Claims

With this amendment, Applicant adds claims 16 and 17. Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of the recitation that “each of the plurality of lands is not connected to any other land on the spherical surface of the golf ball,” as set forth in the respective claims.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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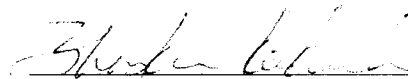
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